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DD/S 68.0472

29 January 1968

OGC 68-0148

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT: Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966,
31 U.S.C. 9521

1. The Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966 empowers agency heads or their designees to settle claims by the government up to \$20,000 in accordance with regulations promulgated by the agency, such regulations to be in conformance with those issued jointly by the Attorney General and the Comptroller General. As you know, the authorities contained in this Act have not been implemented by this Agency, and it would seem in our interest to implement them. We will be happy to assist you.

2. Attached for your information is a copy of the Act as it appears in the United States Code and a copy of the joint regulations issued by the Comptroller General and the Attorney General.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

Attachments

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MONEY AND FINANCE

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§ 938. Reserved foreign currencies; use by Federal agencies; reimbursement; replacement

Any foreign currencies held by the United States which have been or may be reserved or set aside for specified programs or activities of any agency of the Government may be used by Federal agencies for any authorized purpose, except (1) that reimbursement shall be made to the Treasury from applicable appropriations of the agency concerned, and (2) that any foreign currencies so used shall be replaced when needed for the purpose for which originally reserved or set aside. Pub.L. 89-677, Oct. 10, 1966, 80 Stat. 955.

Modification. Section was enacted by Pub.L. 89-677 and not by Pub.L. 80-175 which comprises this chapter.

CHAPTER 18.—COMPROMISE AND COLLECTION OF
FEDERAL CLAIMS [NEW]

Sec.	Definitions.	Sec.	(c) Conclusive effect of compromise; fraud, misrepresentation, false claims, mutual mistake of fact.
951.	Collection and compromise.	953.	Existing agency authority to litigate, settle, compromise, or close claims.
952.	(a) Agency collection; rules and regulations. (b) Compromise of claims; termination of collection action; rules and regulations; \$20,000 limitation.		

§ 951. Definitions

In this chapter—

(a) "agency" means any department, office, commission, board, service, Government corporation, instrumentality, or other establishment or body in either the executive or legislative branch of the Federal Government;

(b) "head of an agency" includes, where applicable, commission, board, or other group of individuals having the decision-making responsibility for the agency.

Pub.L. 89-508, § 2, July 19, 1966, 80 Stat. 308.

Library references: United States Code 75½; C.J.S. United States §§ 132, 135.

Effective Date. Section 5 of Pub.L. 89-508 provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter] shall become effective on the one hundred and eightieth day following the date of its enactment [July 19, 1966]."

Short Title. Section 1 of Pub.L. 89-508 provided: "That this Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966'."

Legislative History. For legislative history and purpose of Pub.L. 89-508, see 1966 U.S. Code Cong. and Adm. News, p. —.

§ 952. Collection and compromise—Agency collection; rules and regulations

(a) The head of an agency or his designee, pursuant to regulations prescribed by him and in conformity with such standards as may be promulgated jointly by the Attorney General and the Comptroller General, shall attempt collection of all claims of the United States for money or property arising out of the activities of, or referred to, his agency.

Compromise of claims; termination of collection action; rules and regulations; \$20,000 limitation

(b) With respect to such claims of the United States that have not been referred to another agency, including the General Accounting Office, for further collection action and that do not exceed \$20,000, exclusive of interest, the head of an agency or his designee, pursuant to regulations prescribed by him and in conformity with such standards as may be promulgated jointly by the Attorney General and the Comptroller General, may (1) compromise any such claim, or (2) cause collection action on any such claim to be terminated or suspended where it appears that no person liable on the claim has the present or prospective financial ability to pay any significant sum thereon or that the cost of collecting the claim is

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likely to exceed the amount of recovery. The Comptroller General or his designee shall have the foregoing authority with respect to claims referred to the General Accounting Office by another agency for further collection action. The head of an agency or his designee shall not exercise the foregoing authority with respect to a claim as to which there is an indication of fraud, the presentation of a false claim, or misrepresentation on the part of the debtor or any other party having an interest in the claim, or a claim based in whole or in part on conduct in violation of the antitrust laws; nor shall the head of an agency, other than the Comptroller General of the United States, have authority to compromise a claim that arises from an exception made by the General Accounting Office in the account of an accountable officer.

Conclusiveness effect of compromise; fraud, misrepresentation, false claims, mutual mistake of fact

(c) A compromise effected pursuant to authority conferred by subsection (b) of this section shall be final and conclusive on the debtor and on all officials, agencies, and courts of the United States, except if procured by fraud, misrepresentation, the presentation of a false claim, or mutual mistake of fact. No accountable officer shall be liable for any amount paid or for the value of property lost, damaged, or destroyed, where the recovery of such amount or value may not be had because of a compromise with a person primarily responsible under subsection (b). Pub.L. 89-508, § 3, July 19, 1966, 80 Stat. 369.

Library references: United States Code 51; C.F.S. United States §§ 132, 133.

§ 953. Existing agency authority to litigate, settle, compromise, or close claims

Nothing in this chapter shall increase or diminish the existing authority of the head of an agency to litigate claims, or diminish his existing authority to settle, compromise, or close claims. Pub.L. 89-508, § 4, July 19, 1966, 80 Stat. 369.

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CONSULT GENERAL INDEX POCKET PART

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Rules and Regulations

Title 4—ACCOUNTS

Chapter II—Federal Claims Collection Standards (General Accounting Office—Department of Justice)

JOINT REGULATIONS PRESCRIBING STANDARDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COLLECTION, COMPROMISE, TERMINATION OF AGENCY COLLECTION ACTION, AND REFERRAL TO GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, AND TO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR LITIGATION, OF CIVIL CLAIMS BY GOVERNMENT FOR MONEY OR PROPERTY

Pursuant to section 3 of the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 309, Title 4 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended to promulgate joint regulations prescribing standards for the administrative collection, compromise, termination of agency collection action, and the referral to the General Accounting Office, and to the Department of Justice for litigation, of civil claims by the Government for money or property, by adding a new Chapter II as follows:

Part

- 101 Scope of standards.
- 102 Standards for the administrative collection of claims.
- 103 Standards for the compromise of claims.
- 104 Standards for suspending or terminating collection action.
- 105 Referrals to GAO or for litigation.

PART 101—SCOPE OF STANDARDS

Sec.

- 101.1 Prescription of standards.
- 101.2 Omissions not a defense.
- 101.3 Fraud, antitrust, and tax claims excluded.
- 101.4 Compromise, waiver, or disposition under other statutes not precluded.
- 101.5 Conversion claims.
- 101.6 Subdivision of claims not authorized.
- 101.7 Required administrative proceedings.
- 101.8 Referral for litigation.

AUTHORITY: The provisions of this Part 101 issued under sec. 3, Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 309.

§ 101.1 Prescription of standards.

The regulations in this chapter, issued jointly by the Comptroller General of the United States and the Attorney General of the United States under section 3 of the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 309, prescribe standards for the administrative collection, compromise, termination of agency collection action, and the referral to the General Accounting Office, and to the Department of Justice for litigation, of civil claims by the Federal Government for money or property. Regulations prescribed by the head of an agency pursuant to section 3 of the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966 will be reviewed

by the General Accounting Office as a part of its audit of the agency's activities.

§ 101.2 Omissions not a defense.

The standards set forth in this chapter shall apply to the administrative handling of civil claims of the Federal Government for money or property but the failure of an agency to comply with any provision of this chapter shall not be available as a defense to any debtor.

§ 101.3 Fraud, antitrust, and tax claims excluded.

The standards set forth in this chapter do not apply to the handling of any claim as to which there is an indication of fraud, the presentation of a false claim, or misrepresentation on the part of the debtor or any other party having an interest in the claim, or to any claim based in whole or in part on conduct in violation of the antitrust laws. Only the Department of Justice has authority to compromise or terminate collection action on such claims. However, matters submitted to the Department of Justice for consideration without compliance with the regulations in this chapter because there is an indication of fraud, the presentation of a false claim, or misrepresentation on the part of the debtor or any other party having an interest in the claim, may be returned to the agency forwarding them for further handling in accordance with the regulations in this chapter if it is determined that action based upon the alleged fraud, false claim, or misrepresentation is not warranted. Tax claims, as to which differing exemptions, administrative consideration, enforcement considerations, and statutes apply, are also excluded from the coverage of this chapter.

§ 101.4 Compromise, waiver, or disposition under other statutes not precluded.

Nothing contained in this chapter is intended to preclude agency disposition of any claim under statutes other than the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 309, providing for the compromise, termination of collection action, or waiver in whole or in part of such a claim. See, e.g., "The Federal Medical Care Recovery Act," 76 Stat. 593, 42 U.S.C. 2651, et seq., and applicable regulations, 28 CFR 43.1, et seq. The standards set forth in this chapter should be followed in the disposition of civil claims by the Federal Government by compromise or termination of collection action (other than by waiver pursuant to statutory authority) under statutes other than the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 309, to the extent such other statutes or authorized regulations issued pursuant thereto do not establish standards governing such matters.

§ 101.5 Conversion claims.

The instructions contained in this chapter are directed primarily to the recovery of money on behalf of the Government and the circumstances in which Government claims may be disposed of for less than the full amount claimed. Nothing contained in this chapter is intended, however, to deter an agency from demanding the return of specific property or from demanding, in the alternative, either the return of property or the payment of its value.

§ 101.6 Subdivision of claims not authorized.

A debtor's liability arising from a particular transaction or contract shall be considered as a single claim in determining whether the claim is one of less than \$20,000, exclusive of interest, for the purpose of compromise or termination of collection action. Such a claim may not be subdivided to avoid the monetary ceiling established by the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 309.

§ 101.7 Required administrative proceedings.

Nothing contained in this chapter is intended to require an agency to omit or foreclose administrative proceedings required by contract or by law.

§ 101.8 Referral for litigation.

As used in this chapter referral for litigation means referral to the Department of Justice for appropriate legal proceedings, unless the agency concerned has statutory authority for handling its own litigation.

PART 102—STANDARDS FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COLLECTION OF CLAIMS

Sec.

- 102.1 Aggressive agency collection action.
- 102.2 Demand for payment.
- 102.3 Collection by offset.
- 102.4 Personal interview with debtor.
- 102.5 Contact with debtor's employing agency.
- 102.6 Suspension or revocation of license or eligibility.
- 102.7 Liquidation of collateral.
- 102.8 Collection in installments.
- 102.9 Exploration of compromise.
- 102.10 Interest.
- 102.11 Documentation of administrative collection action.
- 102.12 Additional administrative collection action.

AUTHORITY: The provisions of this Part 102 issued under sec. 3, Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 309.

§ 102.1 Aggressive agency collection action.

The head of an agency or his designee shall take aggressive action, on a timely basis with effective followup, to collect all claims of the United States for money or property arising out of the activities of,

PART 102—STANDARDS FOR THE COMPROMISE OF CLAIMS

or referred to, in accordance with the standards set forth in this chapter. However, nothing contained in this chapter is intended to require the General Accounting Office or the Department of Justice to duplicate collection actions previously undertaken by any other agency.

§ 102.2 Demand for payment.

Appropriate written demands shall be made upon a debtor of the United States in terms which inform the debtor of the consequences of his failure to cooperate. Three written demands, at 30-day intervals, will normally be made unless a response to the first or second demand indicates that further demand would be futile or unless prompt suit or attachment is required in anticipation of the departure of the debtor or debtors from the jurisdiction or his or their removal or transfer of assets, or the running of the statute of limitations. There should be no undue time lag in responding to any communication received from the debtor or debtors.

§ 102.3 Collection by offset.

Collections by offset will be undertaken administratively on claims which are liquidated or certain in amount in every instance in which this is feasible. Collections by offset from persons receiving pay or compensation from the Federal Government shall be effected over a period not greater than the period during which such pay or compensation is to be received. See 5 U.S.C. 5514. Collection by offset against a judgment obtained by the debtor against the United States shall be accomplished in accordance with the Act of March 3, 1875, 18 Stat. 481, as amended, 31 U.S.C. 227. Appropriate use should be made of the cooperative efforts of other agencies in effecting collections by offset, including utilization of the Army Holdup List, and all agencies are enjoined to cooperate in this endeavor.

§ 102.4 Personal interview with debtor.

Agencies will undertake personal interviews with their debtors when this is feasible, having regard for the amounts involved and the proximity of agency representatives to such debtors.

§ 102.5 Contact with debtor's employing agency.

When a debtor is employed by the Federal Government or is a member of the military establishment or the Coast Guard, and collection by offset cannot be accomplished in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 5514, the employing agency will be contacted for the purpose of arranging with the debtor for payment of the indebtedness by allotment or otherwise in accordance with section 206 of Executive Order 11222 of May 8, 1965, 3 CFR, pp. 130, 131 (1965 Supp.) (30 F.R. 6469).

§ 102.6 Suspension or revocation of license or eligibility.

Agencies seeking the collection of statutory penalties, forfeitures, or debts provided for as an enforcement aid or for compelling compliance will give serious consideration to the suspension or revocation of license or other privileges for any inexcusable, prolonged or repeated failure of a debtor to pay such a claim and the debtor will be so advised. Any agency making, guaranteeing, insuring, acquiring, or participating in loans will give serious consideration to suspending or disqualifying any lender, contractor, broker, borrower or other debtor from doing further business with it or engaging in programs sponsored by it if such a debtor fails to pay its debts to the Government within a reasonable time and the debtor will be so advised. The failure of any surety to honor its obligations in accordance with 6 U.S.C. 11 is to be reported to the Treasury Department at once. Notification that a surety's certificate of authority to do business with the Federal Government has been revoked or forfeited by the Treasury Department will be forwarded by that Department to all interested agencies.

§ 102.7 Liquidation of collateral.

Agencies holding security or collateral which may be liquidated and the proceeds applied on debts due it through the exercise of a power of sale in the security instrument or a non-judicial foreclosure should do so by such procedures if the debtor fails to pay his debt within a reasonable time after demand, unless the cost of disposing of the collateral will be disproportionate to its value or special circumstances require judicial foreclosure. Collection from other sources, including liquidation of security or collateral, is not a prerequisite to requiring payment by a surety or insurance concern unless such action is expressly required by statute or contract.

§ 102.8 Collection in installments.

Claims, with interest in accordance with section 102.10 of this chapter, should be collected in full in one lump sum whenever this is possible. However, if the debtor is financially unable to pay the indebtedness in one lump sum, payment may be accepted in regular installments. The size and frequency of such installment payments should bear a reasonable relation to the size of the debt and the debtor's ability to pay. If possible the installment payments should be sufficient in size and frequency to liquidate the Government's claim in not more than 3 years. Installment payments of less than \$10 per month should be accepted in only the most unusual circumstances. An agency holding an unsecured claim for administrative collection should attempt to obtain an executed confess-judgment note, comparable to the Department of Justice form USA-70a, from a debtor when the total amount of the deferred installments will exceed \$750. Such notes may be sought when an unsecured obligation of a lesser amount is involved. Security for deferred payments, other than a confess-judgment note, may be accepted in appropriate cases. An agency may accept installment payments notwithstanding the refusal of a debtor to execute a confess-judgment note or to give other security, at the agency's option.

§ 102.9 Exploration of compromise.

Agencies will attempt to effect compromises (preferably during the course of personal interviews), of claims of \$20,000 or less exclusive of interest, in accordance with the standards set forth in Part 103 of this chapter in all cases in which it can be ascertained that the debtor's financial ability will not permit payment of the claim in full, or in which the litigative risks or the costs of litigation dictate such action.

§ 102.10 Interest.

In cases in which prejudgment interest is not mandated by statute, contract or regulation, the agency may forego the collection of prejudgment interest as an inducement to voluntary payment. In such cases demand letters should inform the debtor that prejudgment interest will be collected if suit becomes necessary. When a debt is paid in installments and interest is collected, the installment payments will first be applied to the payment of accrued interest and then to principal, in accordance with the so-called "U.S. Rule", unless a different rule is prescribed by statute, contract or regulation. Prejudgment interest should not be demanded or collected on civil penalty and forfeiture claims unless the statute under which the claim arises authorizes the collection of such interest. See *Rodgers v. United States*, 332 U.S. 371.

§ 102.11 Documentation of administrative collection action.

All administrative collection action should be documented and the bases for compromise, or for termination or suspension of collection action, should be set out in detail. Such documentation should be retained in the appropriate claims file.

§ 102.12 Additional administrative collection action.

Nothing contained in this chapter is intended to preclude the utilization of any other administrative remedy which may be available.

PART 103—STANDARDS FOR THE COMPROMISE OF CLAIMS

- Sec.
- 103.1 Scope and application.
 - 103.2 Inability to pay.
 - 103.3 Litigative probabilities.
 - 103.4 Cost of collecting claim.
 - 103.5 Enforcement policy.
 - 103.6 Joint and several liability.
 - 103.7 Settlement for a combination of reasons.
 - 103.8 Further review of compromise offers.
 - 103.9 Restrictions.

AUTHORITY: The provisions of this Part 103 issued under sec. 3, Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 309.

§ 103.1 Scope and application.

The standards set forth in this part apply to the compromise of claims, pursuant to section 3(b) of the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 309, which do not exceed \$20,000 exclusive of interest. The head of an agency or his designee may exercise such com-

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promise an offer with respect to claims for money or property arising out of the activities of his agency prior to the referral of such claims to the General Accounting Office or to the Department of Justice for litigation. The Comptroller General or his designee may exercise such compromise authority with respect to claims referred to the General Accounting Office prior to their further referral for litigation. Only the Comptroller General or his designee may effect the compromise of a claim that arises out of an exception made by the General Accounting Office in the account of an accountable officer, including a claim against the payee, prior to its referral by that Office for litigation.

§ 103.2 Inability to pay.

A claim may be compromised pursuant to this part if the Government cannot collect the full amount because of (a) the debtor's inability to pay the full amount within a reasonable time, or (b) the refusal of the debtor to pay the claim in full and the Government's inability to enforce collection in full within a reasonable time by enforced collection proceedings. In determining the debtor's inability to pay the following factors, among others, may be considered: Age and health of the debtor; present and potential income; inheritance prospects; the possibility that assets have been concealed or improperly transferred by the debtor; the availability of assets or income which may be realized upon by enforced collection proceedings. The agency will give consideration to the applicable exemptions available to the debtor under State and Federal law in determining the Government's ability to enforce collection. Uncertainty as to the price which collateral or other property will bring at forced sale may properly be considered in determining the Government's ability to enforce collection. A compromise effected under this section should be for an amount which bears a reasonable relation to the amount which can be recovered by enforced collection procedures, having regard for the exemptions available to the debtor and the time which collection will take. Compromises payable in installments are to be discouraged. However, if payment of a compromise by installments is necessary, an agreement for the reinstatement of the prior indebtedness less sums paid thereon and acceleration of the balance due upon default in the payment of any installment should be obtained, together with security in the manner set forth in § 102.8 of this chapter, in every case in which this is possible. If the agency's files do not contain reasonably up-to-date credit information as a basis for assessing a compromise proposal such information may be obtained from the individual debtor by obtaining a statement executed under penalty of perjury showing the debtor's assets and liabilities, income and expense. Forms such as Department of Justice form DJ-35 may be used for this purpose. Similar data may be obtained from corporate

debtors by resort to balance sheets and such additional data as seems required.

§ 103.3 Litigative probabilities.

A claim may be compromised pursuant to this part if there is a real doubt concerning the Government's ability to prove its case in court for the full amount claimed either because of the legal issues involved or a bona fide dispute as to the facts. The amount accepted in compromise in such cases should fairly reflect the probability of prevailing on the legal question involved, the probabilities with respect to full or partial recovery of a judgment having due regard to the availability of witnesses and other evidentiary support for the Government claim, and related pragmatic considerations. Proportionate weight should be given to the probable amount of court costs which may be assessed against the Government if it is unsuccessful in litigation, having regard for the litigative risks involved. Cf. 28 U.S.C. 2412, as amended by Public Law 89-507, 80 Stat. 308.

§ 103.4 Cost of collecting claim.

A claim may be compromised pursuant to this part if the cost of collecting the claim does not justify the enforced collection of the full amount. The amount accepted in compromise in such cases may reflect an appropriate discount for the administrative and litigative costs of collection having regard for the time which it will take to effect collection. Cost of collecting may be a substantial factor in the settlement of small claims. The cost of collecting claims normally will not carry great weight in the settlement of large claims.

§ 103.5 Enforcement policy.

Statutory penalties, forfeitures, or debts established as an aid to enforcement and to compel compliance may be compromised pursuant to this part if the agency's enforcement policy in terms of deterrence and securing compliance, both present and future, will be adequately served by acceptance of the sum to be agreed upon. Mere accidental or technical violations may be dealt with less severely than willful and substantial violations.

§ 103.6 Joint and several liability.

When two or more debtors are jointly and severally liable collection action will not be withheld against one such debtor until the other or others pay their proportionate share. The agency should not attempt to allocate the burden of paying such claims as between the debtors but should proceed to liquidate the indebtedness as quickly as possible. Care should be taken that compromise with one such debtor does not release the agency's claim against the remaining debtors. The amount of a compromise with one such debtor shall not be considered a precedent or as morally binding in determining the amount which will be required from other debtors jointly and severally liable on the claim.

§ 103.7 Settlement for a combination of reasons.

A claim may be compromised for one or for more than one of the reasons authorized in this part.

§ 103.8 Further review of compromise offers.

If an agency holds a debtor's firm written offer of compromise which is substantial in amount and the agency is uncertain as to whether the offer should be accepted, it may refer the offer, the supporting data, and particulars concerning the claim to the General Accounting Office or to the Department of Justice. The General Accounting Office or the Department of Justice may act upon such an offer or return it to the agency with instructions or advice.

§ 103.9 Restrictions.

Neither a percentage of a debtor's profits nor stock in a debtor corporation will be accepted in compromise of a claim. In negotiating a compromise with a business concern consideration should be given to requiring a waiver of the tax-loss-carry-forward and tax-loss-carry-back rights of the debtor.

PART 104—STANDARDS FOR SUSPENDING OR TERMINATING COLLECTION ACTION

Sec.

- 104.1 Scope and application.
- 104.2 Suspension of collection activity.
- 104.3 Termination of collection activity.
- 104.4 Transfer of claims.

AUTHORITY: The provisions of this Part 104 issued under sec. 3, Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 309.

§ 104.1 Scope and application.

The standards set forth in this part apply to the suspension or termination of collection action pursuant to section 3(b) of the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 309, on claims which do not exceed \$20,000 exclusive of interest. The head of an agency or his designee may suspend or terminate collection action under this part with respect to claims for money or property arising out of activities of his agency prior to the referral of such claims to the General Accounting Office or to the Department of Justice for litigation. The Comptroller General or his designee may exercise such authority with respect to claims referred to the General Accounting Office prior to their further referral for litigation.

§ 104.2 Suspension of collection activity.

Collection action may be suspended temporarily on a claim when the debtor cannot be located after diligent effort and there is reason to believe that future collection action may be sufficiently productive to justify periodic review and action on the claim having consideration for its size and the amount which may be realized thereon. The following sources may be of assistance in locating missing debtors: Telephone directories; city directories; postmasters; drivers' license

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records; automobile title and license records; state and local governmental agencies; district directors of Internal Revenue; other Federal agencies; employers, relatives, friends; credit agency skip locate reports. Suspension as to a particular debtor should not defer the early liquidation of security for the debt. Every reasonable effort should be made to locate missing debtors sufficiently in advance of the bar of the applicable statute of limitations, such as Public Law 89-505, 80 Stat. 304, to permit the timely filing of suit if such action is warranted. If the missing debtor has signed a confession-judgment note and is in default, referral of the note for the entry of judgment should not be delayed because of his missing status. Collection action may be suspended temporarily on a claim when the debtor owns no substantial equity in realty and is unable to make payments on the Government's claim or effect a compromise thereof at the time but his future prospects justify retention of the claim for periodic review and action and (a) the applicable statute of limitations has been tolled or started running anew or (b) future collection can be effected by offset notwithstanding the statute of limitations.

§ 101.3 Termination of collection activity.

The head of an agency or his designee may terminate collection activity and consider the agency's file on the claim closed under the following standards:

(a) *Inability to collect any substantial amount.* Collection action may be terminated on a claim when it becomes clear that the Government cannot collect or enforce collection of any significant sum from the debtor having due regard for the judicial remedies available to the Government, the debtor's future financial prospects, and the exemptions available to the debtor under State and Federal law. In determining the debtor's inability to pay the following factors, among others, may be considered: Age and health of the debtor; present and potential income; inheritance prospects; the possibility that assets have been concealed or improperly transferred by the debtor; the availability of assets or income which may be realized upon by enforced collection proceedings.

(b) *Inability to locate debtor.* Collection action may be terminated on a claim when the debtor cannot be located, there is no security remaining to be liquidated, the applicable statute of limitations has run, and the prospects of collecting by offset notwithstanding the bar of the statute of limitations is too remote to justify retention of the claim.

(c) *Cost will exceed recovery.* Collection action may be terminated on a claim when it is likely that the cost of further collection action will exceed the amount recoverable thereby.

(d) *Claim legally without merit.* Collection action should be terminated on a claim whenever it is determined that the claim is legally without merit.

(e) *Claim cannot be substantiated by evidence.* Collection action should be

terminated when it is determined that the evidence necessary to prove the claim cannot be produced or the necessary witnesses are unavailable and efforts to induce voluntary payment are unavailing.

§ 101.4 Transfer of claims.

When an agency has doubt as to whether collection action should be suspended or terminated on a claim it may refer the claim to the General Accounting Office for advice. When a significant enforcement policy is involved in reducing a statutory penalty or forfeiture to judgment, or recovery of a judgment is a prerequisite to the imposition of administrative sanctions, such as the suspension or revocation of a license or the privilege of participating in a Government sponsored program, an agency may refer such a claim for litigation even though termination of collection activity might otherwise be given consideration under § 104.3 (a) or (c). Claims on which an agency holds a judgment by assignment or otherwise will be referred to the Department of Justice for further action if renewal of the judgment lien or enforced collection proceedings are justified under the criteria discussed in this part, unless the agency concerned has statutory authority for handling its own litigation.

PART 105—REFERRALS TO GAO OR FOR LITIGATION

Sec.	
105.1	Prompt referral.
105.2	Current address of debtor.
105.3	Credit data.
105.4	Report of prior collection actions.
105.5	Preservation of evidence.
105.6	Minimum amount of referrals to the Department of Justice.
105.7	Referrals to GAO.

AUTHORITY: The provisions of this Part 105 issued under sec. 3, Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 309.

§ 105.1 Prompt referral.

Claims on which collection action has been taken in accordance with Part 102 of this chapter and which cannot be compromised, or on which collection action cannot be suspended or terminated, in accordance with Parts 103 and 104 of this chapter, will be referred to the General Accounting Office in accordance with R.S. 236, as amended, 31 U.S.C. 71, or to the Department of Justice, if the agency concerned has been granted an exception from referrals to the General Accounting Office. Such referrals should be made as early as possible consistent with aggressive agency collection action and the observance of the regulations contained in this chapter and in any event well within the time limited for bringing a timely suit against the debtor.

§ 105.2 Current address of debtor.

Referrals to the General Accounting Office, and to the Department of Justice for litigation, will be accompanied by the current address of the debtor or the name and address of the agent for a corporation upon whom service may be made. Reasonable and appropriate steps will be

taken to locate missing parties in all cases. Referrals to the General Accounting Office, and referrals to the Department of Justice for the institution of foreclosure or other proceedings, in which the current address of any party is unknown will be accompanied by a listing of the prior known addresses of such a party and a statement of the steps taken to locate him.

§ 105.3 Credit data.

(a) Claims referred to the General Accounting Office, and to the Department of Justice for litigation, will be accompanied by reasonably current credit data indicating that there is a reasonable prospect of effecting enforced collections from the debtor, having due regard for the exemptions available to the debtor under State and Federal law and the judicial remedies available to the Government.

(b) Such credit data may take the form of (1) a commercial credit report, (2) an agency investigative report showing the debtor's assets and liabilities and his income and expenses, (3) the individual debtor's own financial statement executed under penalty of perjury reflecting his assets and liabilities and his income and expenses, or (4) an audited balance sheet of a corporate debtor.

(c) Such credit data may be omitted if (1) a surety bond is available in an amount sufficient to satisfy the claim in full, (2) the forced sale value of the security available for application to the Government's claim is sufficient to satisfy its claim in full, (3) the referring agency wishes to liquidate loan collateral through judicial foreclosure but does not desire a deficiency judgment, (4) the debtor is in bankruptcy or receivership, or (5) the debtor's liability to the Government is fully covered by insurance, in which case the agency will furnish such information as it can develop concerning the identity and address of the insurer and the type and amount of insurance coverage.

§ 105.4 Report of prior collection actions.

A checklist or brief summary of the actions previously taken to collect or compromise a claim will be forwarded with the claim upon its referral to the General Accounting Office or to the Department of Justice. If any of the administrative collection actions enumerated in Part 102 of this chapter have been omitted, the reason for their omission will be given with the referral. The General Accounting Office and the Department of Justice may return or retain claims at their option when there is insufficient justification for the omission of one or more of the administrative collection actions enumerated in Part 102 of this chapter.

§ 105.5 Preservation of evidence.

Care will be taken to preserve all files, records and exhibits on claims referred or to be referred to the General Accounting Office, or to the Department of Justice for litigation.

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§ 105.6 Minimum of referrals to the Department of Justice.

Agencies will not pay claims of less than \$250, exclusive of interest, for litigation unless (a) referral is important to a significant enforcement policy or (b) the debtor has not only the clear ability to pay the claim but the Government can effectively enforce payment having due regard to the exemptions available to the debtor under State or Federal law and the judicial remedies available to the Government.

§ 105.7 Referrals to GAO.

Referrals of claims to the General Accounting Office will be in accordance with instructions, including monetary limitations, contained in the General Accounting Office Policy and Procedures Manual for the Guidance of Federal Agencies.

The foregoing joint regulations shall become effective upon the 15th day of January 1967.

Signed at Washington, D.C.

ELMER B. STAATS,
Comptroller General.

OCTOBER 11, 1966.

RAMSEY CLARK,
Acting Attorney General.

OCTOBER 7, 1966.

[F.R. Doc. 68-11268; Filed, Oct. 14, 1966;
8:47 a.m.]

Title 7—AGRICULTURE

Chapter IX—Consumer and Marketing Service (Marketing Agreements and Orders; Fruits, Vegetables, Nuts), Department of Agriculture

[Tangerine Reg. 32]

PART 905—ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT, TANGERINES, AND TANGELOS GROWN IN FLORIDA

Limitation of Shipments

Findings. (1) Pursuant to the marketing agreement, as amended, and Order No. 905, as amended (7 CFR Part 905), regulating the handling of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, and tangelos grown in Florida, effective under the applicable provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), and upon the basis of the recommendations of the committees established under the aforesaid amended marketing agreement and order, and upon other available information, it is hereby found that the limitation of shipments of tangerines, as hereinafter provided, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(2) It is hereby further found that it is impracticable and contrary to the public interest to give preliminary notice, engage in public rule-making procedure, and postpone the effective date of this regulation until 30 days after publication thereof in the FEDERAL REGISTER (5 U.S.C. 1001-1011) because the time intervening between the date when information upon

which this regulation is based became available and the time when this regulation must become effective in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act is insufficient; a reasonable time is permitted, under the circumstances, for preparation for such effective time; and good cause exists for making the provisions hereof effective not later than October 17, 1966. The Growers Administrative Committee held an open meeting on October 11, 1966, to consider recommendations for a regulation, after giving due notice of such meeting, and interested persons were afforded an opportunity to submit their views at this meeting; information regarding the provisions of the regulation recommended by the committee has been disseminated among shippers of tangerines grown in the production area, and this regulation, including the effective time thereof, is identical with the recommendation of the committee; it is necessary, in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, to make this regulation effective on the date hereinafter set forth so as to provide for the regulation of the handling of tangerines grown in the production area at the start of this marketing season; and compliance with this regulation will not require any special preparation on the part of persons subject thereto which cannot be completed on or before the effective time hereof.

§ 905.483 Tangerine Regulation 32.

(a) **Order.** (1) During the period beginning at 12:01 a.m., e.s.t., October 17, 1966, and ending at 12:01 a.m., e.s.t., August 1, 1967, no handler shall, except to the extent otherwise permitted under this paragraph, ship between the production area and any point outside thereof in the continental United States, Canada, or Mexico:

(i) Any tangerines, grown in the production area, which do not grade at least U.S. No. 1; or

(ii) Any tangerines, grown in the production area, which are of a size smaller than 2 1/16 inches in diameter, except that a tolerance of 10 percent, by count, of tangerines smaller than such minimum diameter shall be permitted, which tolerance shall be applied in accordance with the provisions for the application of tolerances specified in said U.S. Standards for Florida Tangerines.

(2) During any week of the aforesaid period, any handler may ship a quantity of tangerines which are smaller than the size prescribed in subparagraph (1) (ii) of this paragraph if (i) the number of standard packed boxes of such smaller tangerines does not exceed 15 percent of the total standard packed boxes of all sizes of tangerines shipped by such handler during the same week; and (ii) such smaller tangerines are of a size not smaller than 2 1/16 inches in diameter, except that a tolerance of 10 percent, by count, of tangerines smaller than such minimum diameter shall be permitted, which tolerance shall be applied in accordance with the provisions for the application of tolerances specified in said U.S. Standards for Tangerines.

(b) Terms used in the amended marketing agreement and order shall, when used herein, have the same meaning as is given to the respective term in said amended marketing agreement and order; the term "week" shall mean the 7-day period beginning at 12:01 a.m., e.s.t., on Monday of one calendar week and ending at 12:01 a.m., e.s.t., on Monday of the following calendar week; and terms relating to grade, diameter, and standard pack, as used herein, shall have the same meaning as is given to the respective term in the U.S. Standards for Florida Tangerines (7 CFR 51.1810-51.1834).

(Secs. 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601-674)

Dated: October 12, 1966.

PAUL A. NICHOLSON,
Deputy Director, Fruit and
Vegetable Division, Consumer
and Marketing Service.

[F.R. Doc. 68-11300; Filed, Oct. 14, 1966;
8:50 a.m.]

[Valencia Orange Reg. 183]

PART 908—VALENCIA ORANGES GROWN IN ARIZONA AND DESIGNATED PART OF CALIFORNIA

Limitation of Handling

§ 908.483 Valencia Orange Regulation 183.

(a) **Findings.** (1) Pursuant to the marketing agreement, as amended, and Order No. 908, as amended (7 CFR Part 908), regulating the handling of Valencia oranges grown in Arizona and designated part of California, effective under the applicable provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), and upon the basis of the recommendations and information submitted by the Valencia Orange Administrative Committee, established under the said amended marketing agreement and order, and upon other available information, it is hereby found that the limitation of handling of such Valencia oranges, as hereinafter provided, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(2) It is hereby further found that it is impracticable and contrary to the public interest to give preliminary notice, engage in public rule-making procedure, and postpone the effective date of this section until 30 days after publication hereof in the FEDERAL REGISTER (5 U.S.C. 1001-1011) because the time intervening between the date when information upon which this section is based became available and the time when this section must become effective in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act is insufficient, and a reasonable time is permitted, under the circumstances, for preparation for such effective time; and good cause exists for making the provisions hereof effective as hereinafter set forth. The committee held an open meeting during the current week, after giving due notice thereof, to consider supply and market conditions for Valencia oranges